

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 /092 W

-----212035Z 041560 /50

R 211043Z APR 77

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4413

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS USBERLIN 1056

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB

SUBJECT: BERLIN PARLIAMENT SPD CAUCUS CHAIRMAN RESIGNS

1. TO SURPRISE OF LOCAL POLITICAL OBSERVERS, DR. WOLFGANG HAUS, CHAIRMAN OF SPD CAUCUS IN BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, RESIGNED HIS OFFICE SUDDENLY ON APRIL 19. HAUS, 49, HAD BEEN CAUCUS CHAIRMAN SINCE 1973. A HISTORIAN AND URBANOLOGIST OF NOTE, HE IS DIRECTOR OF GERMAN INSTITUTE OF URBANOLOGY IN BERLIN. HAUS VISITED US LAST YEAR ON LEADER GRANT, WHICH HE HAD TO TERMINATE AFTER ONE WEEK AND RETURN TO BERLIN DUE TO POLITICAL CRISIS(ESCAPE OF CONVICTED TERRORISTS WHICH LED TO RESIGNATION OF MAYOR OXFORD.)

2. PRESUMED CAUSE OF HAUS' RESIGNATION WAS LACK OF SUPPORT WITHIN SPD CAUCUS FOR HIS COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO PROCEDURAL PROBLEM. GROUP FROM NEUKOELLN WANTED TO REPLACE ONE OF THREE DEPUTY CAUCUS CHAIRMAN, RIGHTIST HANS-JUERGEN HESS, WITH ANOTHER RIGHT-WING MAN. TO AVOID THIS, HAUS SOUGHT TO CREATE A POSITION FOR A FOURTH DEPUTY CAUCUS CHAIRMAN. MAJORITY OF CAUCUS VOTED AGAINST THIS AND HAUS APPARENTLY FELT COMPELLED TO RESIGN. HE WAS REPLACED BY FRANK EHRKE, 55, WHO

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HAD BEEN SENIOR DEPUTY CAUCUS CHAIRMAN. EHRKE, FORMERLY AN EXECUTIVE WITH BEWAG(BERLIN ELECTRICITY COMPANY). HAS BEEN MEMBER OF HOUSE OF REPS SINCE 1955. HE IS PRESENTLY BERLIN DIRECTOR FOR GERMAN NATIONAL LOTTERY(DEUTSCHEN KLASSENLOTTERIE BERLIN). EHRKE IS MARRIED, HAS ONE CHILD, AND HAS A BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH. HE REPRESENTS SPANDAU IN HOUSE

OF REPS AND IS MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR SPD
SPANDAU DISTRICT.

3. EHRKE REPORTEDLY WAS STUNNED BY HAUS RESIGNATION AND INITALLY
AGREED TO ACCEPT POSITION ONLY ON TRANSITIONAL BASIS. HE
SUBSEQUENTLY , HOWEVER, INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO SERVE
OUT USUAL TWO-YEAR TERM. SENATOR
NEUBAUER WAS QUOTED BY SEVERAL PAPERS AS INDICATING INTEREST IN
POSSIBLY BECOMING CAUCUS CHAIRMAN AT SOME POINT IN FUTURE.

4. BULK OF MEDIA COVERAGE HAS TENDED TO LINK HAUS RESIGNATION WITH
GENERAL RIGHT-LEFT PROBLEMS WITHIN SPD AND POSSIBILITY OF
EVENTUAL RESIGNATION OF GOV MAYOR SCHUETZ. MAJORITY OF NEWS PAPERS
COMMENTING ON MATTER HAVE PRAISED HAUS AS MAN OF INTELLIGENCE AND
MODERATION WHOSE STEADYING INFLUENCE WILL BE SORELY MISSED BY
BERLIN SPD.
GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB, SPD, (WOLFGANG, HAUS)
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